THE FIRE WITHIN
(Part One Of Two Parts)

Welcome to the Pyrist Temple, a massive structure, as ornate as it is ominous. This is the home of the *Eternal Flame* - a symbol of faith to the masses of Demeter City. But for those who reside within its walls, namely Sister Nevik Brok and her disciple Kalamandro, the *Eternal Flame* has taken on a meaning far more significant than the masses could possibly realize. Power and Control. For in her own genteel and pious manner, Sister Brok has decided that it is *she* would should be reigning over the sect, not the Temple's aging leader, Icar Vedra. And she will stop at nothing to achieve her goal.

Sister Brok quickly makes waste of her first nemesis, Brother Tendall Kalike, a devout supporter of Icar Vedra. Under the guise of "channeling an entity" Sister Brok denounces Brother Kalike as a heretic in front of the myriads who make up the Temple's congregation. Raising her finger towards him, Brother Kalike's body instantaneously bursts into flames amid the screams of the congregation.

Another one of Vedra's supporters, Sister Fancher, meets a similar fate. While en route to a secret meeting with Lieutenant Patrick Brogan to discuss the evil-doings in the Temple, her vehicle mysteriously bursts into a fireball.

The police have only one course of action. They must infiltrate the cult. The guinea pigs are to be Officer Jack Haldane and Captain Podly's daughter, Samina, a detective from the 38th precinct. Posing as Tate Huxley, an Earth Studies professor, Haldane (and Samina - incognito as a techno physicist) become the cult's newest converts. Little do these two realize that their charade will soon have deadly consequences.

Expressing undying faith in the *Fire*, Haldane and Samina become "Initiates" under the tutelage of Kalamandro. Though impressed by Haldane's knowledge of the religion, Kalamandro takes an instant dislike to the police officer, ordering a full scale investigation of the new convert.

Samina, meanwhile, makes good use of her time. Working fast and furtively, she breaks into Kalamandro's room. Her investigation is thwarted however by his unexpected return to his domicile. Crossing the floor he opens his wardrobe door. On the floor lay several jars filled with a clear liquid. He grabs one of the jars and exits the cell. Had he noticed that Samina was hiding behind one of them, she would have surely been the cult's next sacrifice.

(more...)

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That night the Pyrist Temple fills with followers from all walks of life. Haldane, Samina and the other "Initiates" are assembled. A hush falls over the room as Icar Vedra leads Sister Brok into the Main Altar room - toward the Altar itself - where a path of steaming hot lava flows out from *the wall of fire that is the Eternal Flame*. The silence grows deeper as Sister Brok steps onto the lava and walks across it, like a sleepwalker in a dream.

Haldane watches, transfixed, as if he has fallen under a spell. Obviously in a trance, Haldane steps out of his sandals. Approaching the Altar, the barefoot policeman steps on to the lava stream, his feet smoking and blistering as he moves across the molten liquid. Slowly he moves toward the *Wall Of Fire*. Samina can not restrain herself any longer. Her scream is echoed by the congregation. Icar Vedra signals Kalamandro to intervene at once. Sister Brok is decidedly impressed with this handsome, virile "initiate."

Sister Brok takes Haldane to her room where she massages balm into his blistering feet. He, in turn, pulls out all the stops in his efforts to seduce the truth out of her. His attempts are thwarted by the sudden arrival of Kalamandro, still convinced that "Tate Huxley" isn't all that he says he is. Little does Kalamandro realize that back at the 88th precinct station house, the officers are discovering that Kalamandro isn't all that *he* says he is, either. Kalamandro alias Andrew Kalam, has a rap sheet that includes several counts of insurance fraud - *all related to arson*.

That evening, Samina and her fellow worshipers are joined by a woman in civilian clothes - Officer Jane Castle in disguise. It's fortuitous that she's there, for in another part of the Temple, Kalamandro is receiving the information he's been waiting for - the true identity of Tate Huxley. Rushing to the main Altar room, he confronts Haldane, who is kneeling in prayer at the feet of Sister Brok. Has Haldane actually been brainwashed? When confronted by Kalamandro Haldane confesses his true identity - then renounces his past, pledging undying loyalty to the Pyrists!!

Kalamandro and Sister Brok put Haldane's loyalty to the test, forcing him to betray Samina. Soon the four of them are airborne in Kalamandro's Hopper, coming to rest on the cliffs that overlook Demeter Bay. Haldane pushes Samina out of the Hopper. Kalamandro hands him a torch. With the torch ignited, Haldane proceeds to walk towards Samina. Slowly she retreats to the edge of the cliff. It's quite clear that Haldane is now a full fledged Pyrist. Brok and Kalamandro watch as a stern faced Haldane prods Samina with the a handle of the torch, pushing her closer to the edge. With one swift motion, Haldane ignites the brush and grass on the cliff. With no recourse left, Samina screams and plunges off the cliff, plummeting hundreds of feet to the water below. His test of loyalty successfully completed, Haldane trudges back toward the waiting limo....

TO BE CONTINUED.....

End Of Part One

LOG LINE

The 88th Precinct's Officer Haldane (Rob Youngblood) goes undercover to expose the Pyrists, a benign spiritual sect devoted to the worship of fire - benign, that is, until some of its members turn up dead and a bizarre series of "miracles" turn Demeter City's Pyrist Temple into a house of horrors.

(more...)

CAST

Lieutenant Patrick Brogan	Ted Shackelford
Officer Jack Haldane	Rob Youngblood
Officer Jane Castle	Simone Bendix
Sally Brogan	Nancy Paul
Matt	Nick Klein
Liz	Megan Olive
Podly	Jerome Willis
Romek	Lou Hirsch
Orrin	Richard James
Took	Mary Woodvine
Fredo	David Quilter
Lionel Carson	Joe Mydell

EPISODAL CAST

Icar Vedra	Jack Hedley
Sister Nevik Brok	Lisa Orgolini
Brother Tendall Kalike	Andy Dawson
Brother Kalamandro	David Quilter
Kem Flexen/Judge/Ziploa	Rob Thirtle
Sister Fancher/Samina Podly	Alexa Rosewood
Fama Podly	Kate Harper
Dorek Kyyster	Wayne Forester
Stunts	Glenn Marks

CREDITS

Executive Producer	Tom Gutteridge
Producer	Gerry Anderson
Associate Producer	Jeffrey Brunner
Co-Executive Producers	Roger Lefkon
	John Needham
Director	John Glen
Screenplay	Steve Brown & Burt Prelutsky
Director of Photography	Alan Hume
Music	Crispin Merrell
Worldwide Distribution	GTV

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